

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS  
Summary of State Board of Education Items  
August 18 - 19, 2011

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

26. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process:  
To Approve New Praxis Tests and Cut Scores as Recommended by the Commission on  
Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development

Background Information:

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has regenerated the following groups of Praxis tests. In September of 2011, ETS will begin administering these new tests replacing the existing exams. Mississippi and other states that use these tests must approve the new tests and new passing scores for all licensure candidates that are required to pass these tests.

They are:

1. Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) - test 0621 or 5621 for grades PreK-K
  - Replacing the current test 0521
2. Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) - test 0622 or 5622 for grades K-6
  - Replacing the current test 0522
3. Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) - test 0623 or 5623 for grades 5-8
  - Replacing the current test 0523
4. Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) - test 0624 or 5624 for grades 7-12
  - Replacing the current test 0524
5. Praxis II Art Education K-12 - test 0134 – replacing test 0133
6. Praxis II Technology Education 7-12 - test 0051 – replacing test 0050
7. Praxis II Audiology - test 0341 – replacing test 0340

At the May Commission meeting, the Commission approved a subcommittee to review new Praxis tests regenerated by ETS for the upcoming test administration year. MDE convened a committee on June 9, 2011 with representatives from ETS to set passing scores for these new tests.

Attending: Rick Cullors, ETS Client Relations Director  
Malik McKinley, ETS Client Relations  
Dr. Sandra Rasberry, Dean, Belhaven University  
Dr. Donald Wheelock, Jackson State University  
Dr. Lennie Little, Certification Officer, JSU  
Dr. Cindy Melton, Chair of Teacher Ed, MS College  
Dr. Daphne Buckley, Deputy Superintendent, MDE  
Cindy Coon, Director of Licensure, MDE  
Amy Daniel, Licensure Analyst, MDE

Judy Edmonds, Licensure Analyst, MDE  
Gail Gettis, Director of Teacher Prep, MDE  
Trecina Green, Director of Curriculum, MDE  
Tiffany Jones, Teacher Recruiter, MDE  
Dr. Tom Burnham, State Superintendent of Education, MDE

The recommendations from the subcommittee that were presented to the Commission at the July meeting were as follows:

PLT PreK –	155
PLT K-6 –	155
PLT 5-8 –	155
PLT 7-12 -	155
Art -	158
Technology Ed	159
Audiology	(will be set by ASHA standard setting)

The cut score recommendations from the subcommittee on the four PLT tests were lower than the recommended score from the ETS national standard setting study. At the July 8, 2011 meeting of the Certification Commission, Dr. Burnham addressed these recommendations. He strongly encouraged the Commission to approve the recommended score from the national ETS standard setting panel, instead of the recommendation from the subcommittee on the PLT tests. MDE is taking a stand to increase all Praxis test score to the national average, just as we are raising the standards for student test scores. We want to be sure Mississippi cut scores are in line with other states and will no longer have the lowest scores in America on some tests. The Commission agreed with Dr. Burnham’s stand on cut scores and voted to approve the national recommended score as all other states are doing.

The scores approved by the Commission and recommended to the State Board are:

PLT PreK –	157
PLT K-6 –	160
PLT 5-8 –	160
PLT 7-12 -	157
Art -	158
Technology Ed	159
Audiology	(will be set by ASHA standard setting)

Recommendation: Approval